

9. (Currently Amended) A system for oversubscribing a group of M DSL modems comprising:

an interface coupled between the group of M DSL modems and an upstream data link;

a group of P operation administration maintenance/embedded operations channel (OAM/EOC) modems in communication with the group of M DSL modems; and

a switch connected to a plurality of N downstream data links, the group of M DSL modems, and the group of P OAM/EOC modems, a first downstream data link of the plurality of N downstream data links being coupled to a first customer premise equipment device, wherein full data rate transmission is achieved such that user traffic data is transferred over the first downstream data link between the first customer premise equipment device and the upstream data link via one of the group of M DSL modems, and a second downstream data link of the plurality of N downstream data links being coupled to a second customer premise equipment device, wherein synchronization data is transferred over a the second downstream data link between the second customer premise equipment device via one of the group of P OAM/EOC modems such that the second customer premise equipment device remains in a state as if connected to a DSL modem; and

wherein the switch dynamically reconfigures customer premise equipment device connections such that at least one of the ~~plurality of~~ ^{first and second} customer premise equipment devices is connected to either one of the group of M DSL modems or to one of the group of P OAM/EOC modems.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9 further comprising means for communicating request-to-send / clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) signals between at least ^{one} of ~~the plurality of~~ ^{first and second} customer premise equipment devices and either one of the group of M DSL modems or one of the group of a P OAM/EOC modems.

11-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein one or more of the plurality of N downstream data links comprises a POTS line.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the upstream data link comprises: a POTS line, an optical fiber, a twisted pair conductor, ~~the~~ a public switched telephone network, a T1 connection, a T3 connection, an ISDN connection, a coaxial cable, an SHDSL link, an ADSL link, a VDSL link, an HDSL link, a V.90 link, or an OCn link.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein $M+P=N$, and wherein P is at least 1.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for oversubscribing a group of M DSL modems, comprising the steps of:

(a) connecting a customer premise equipment device, according to the priority and order of a request from the customer premise equipment device, either to a one of the

group of M DSL modems or to an one of a group of P operation administration maintenance /embedded operations channel (OAM/EOC) modems;

(b) transferring user traffic data for the customer premise equipment devices if the customer premise equipment device is connected to one of the group of M DSL modems;

(c) transferring synchronization data for the customer premise ^{equipment} device if the customer premise equipment device is connected to the one of the group of P OAM/EOC modems;

(d) determining whether a time-out or a no-more-data condition exists if the customer premise equipment device is connected to one of the group of M DSL modems; and

(e) if the time-out or no-more-data condition exists, repeating steps (a)-(d), otherwise repeating steps (b)-(d).

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the connection of the customer premise equipment device to either the one of the group of M DSL modems or to the one of the group of P OAM/EOC modem is done at least in part in response to request-to-send / clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) signals.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of embedding the RTS/CTS signals within superframes.